

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /145 W

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R 280818Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3989

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3358

JOINT EMBASSY/COMUSK MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS

SUBJ: ROK PROCUREMENT OF SWISS AA GUNS: REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE

REF: A. SEOUL 3053; B. SEOUL 3134; C. SEOUL 3335

1. REF A. REPORTED ROK APPROACH TO JUSMAG/K REQUESTING TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON AND APPROVAL OF THEIR TENTATIVE PLANS TO PURCHASE SIX SECTIONS (12 GUNS) OF OERLIKON TWIN 35 MM AA GUNS FROM SWISS. AS STATED REF A. CHIEF JUSMAG DID NOT GIVE ANY SUCH APPROVAL.

2. SINCE THAT TIME, ASST. MINISTER PAIK SEOK CHU HAS MADE TWO ADDITIONAL STRONG APPROACHES TO CHIEF JUSMAG SEEKING AT LEAST TACIT USG APPROVAL OF THEIR PLANS TO PURCHASE THESE WEAPONS. PAIK REPORTED THAT ROKS HAVE RECEIVED P&A DATA FROM SWISS I.E., ONE SECTION OF TWO GUNS AVAILABLE IN JUNE 1975 WITH FINAL DELIVERY OF THE SIX SECTIONS BY EARLY 1978. THE COST OF ALL SIX SECTIONS WOULD BE ABOUT \$17.9 MILLION, SUBJECT TO INCREASES DUE TO INFLATION. (EVENTUALLY MND ANTICIPATES REQUIREMENT FOR 40 SECTION SYSTEMS.)

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3. PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING INITIAL 12 OERLIKONS IS TO DETERMINE ROK

CAPABILITY TO FABRICATE THEM IN-COUNTRY; PROBABLY UNDER SOME ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT WORKED OUT BY THE JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCE (JSDF). THE PREVIOUS ROK MND ACTING ASST. MINISTER VISITED JSDF EARLIER THIS YEAR AND OBSERVED AN OERLIKON AA GUN FIRING DEMONSTRATION IN SAPPORO.

4. MND OFFICIALS STATE THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR THE ROK TO ACQUIRE A WEAPON WHICH COULD DEFEND THE AIR SPACE BETWEEN THE ALTITUDE COVERED BY THE VULCAN AND THAT COVERED BY THE HAWK. THEY ALSO STATE THAT THE CHAPPARAL WHICH THE US USES TO COVER THIS AREA, IS TOO EXPENSIVE AND, BECAUSE OF THE TERRAIN, IS NOT BEST SUITED TO THEIR NEEDS. HOWEVER, THEY STATED THEIR RELUCTANCE TO PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENT TO PURCHASE THE OERLIKON WITHOUT GETTING "APPROVAL" FROM THE U.S.

5. US IN-COUNTRY MILITARY AGREE WITH ROK THAT THERE IS REQUIREMENT FOR AN AD WEAPONS SYSTEM TO COVER THE GAP BETWEEN THE VULCANS AND THE HAWK AREA.

6. ISSUE IS ESSENTIALLY A POLICY ONE, I.E., WILL WE ACCEPT SIGNIFICANT THIRD COUNTRY PROCUREMENT AT SAME TIME WE HAVE MAJOR MAP SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THIS IS QUESTION THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE IN BEST POSITION TO DECIDE. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD ADVISE ROKG THAT WE SEE PROBLEMS IN CASE PROCUREMENT OF THIRD COUNTRY MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHILE THERE IS SIGNIFICANT GRANT ASSISTANCE REQUEST BEFORE CONGRESS.

7. WE WOULD EXPECT A STRONGLY NEGATIVE ROKG REACTION BUT IT WOULD BE MUTED IF WE ALSO ARE ABLE TO GIVE SOME POSITIVE RESPONSES REGARDING OTHER MILITARY PROCUREMENT ISSUES REPORTED REF C.

8. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

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